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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Austria

DATE DISTR. 2 June 1948

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Austrian Communist Party Plans Concerning
Factory Workers and Communist Training
Courses

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

1. At a meeting of the Central Committee of the Austrian Communist Party, it was decided to concentrate on so-called Kleinarbeit (parts work) in the factories with the object of alienating workers from the trade unions. It was admitted that the current policy of subjecting workers to vast amounts of partially true propaganda had been unsuccessful.
2. Reliable Communists are already being trained by Bezirksleitungen (district directorates) for covert penetration activity in factories. This is considered to be of more value to the Party than demonstrations. However, it was also pointed out that demonstrations are useful for the purpose of diverting attention from covert activity.
3. The need for more Kleinarbeit was also stressed at the Bezirkskonferenz (district conference) which was held in Graz on 18 April 1948, but on that occasion the proposal was met with a marked lack of enthusiasm.
4. The new tactics which are to be used by the Communist Party were also referred to after a closed "lecture" to CP members on 20 April. When a reference was made to the possibility that the Communist Party might be liquidated by the Socialist Party and People's Party after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, the speaker stated that the Party had decided on the new tactics in order effectively and unobtrusively to strengthen its ranks and to maintain its finances at their present level.
5. A further step toward the improvement of Party control is the decision to continue the courses for Communist Party members through the holiday period. The courses are to be held at holiday resorts, and about 50 country inns are to be rented for this purpose. Efforts will be made by the Communist Central Committee to provide good food for the students attending the courses.

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